

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A communication method comprising the steps of:

detecting by a terminal of a forwarder, whether or not a user of a terminal of a forwarding destination is logged in an instant message server;

transmitting an instant message including identification information of the terminal of the forwarding destination from the terminal of the forwarder to a communication device and not to the instant message server, when the user of the forwarding destination is not logged in the instant message server;

storing the instant message received from the terminal of the forwarder in means for storing of the communication device;

detecting by the communication device, whether or not the user of the forwarding destination designated as the terminal of the forwarding destination is logged in the instant message server; and

transmitting the instant message stored in the means for storing from the communication device to the terminal of the forwarding destination when the user of the forwarding destination logs into the instant message server,

wherein when the user of the forwarding destination logs in, the forwarding destination information corresponding to the logged-in user of the forwarding destination is extracted from a forwarding destination column of the stored instant message, the extracted forwarding destination information is set as a destination, and the instant message is transmitted to the terminal of the set destination.

Claim 14 (Original): The communication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

adding to an instant message to be transmitted from the communication device to the terminal of the forwarding destination, transmitter information included in the instant message which the communication device received from the terminal of the forwarder.

Claim 15 (Original): The communication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

transmitting, when a prescribed period of time elapses after the communication device receives the instant message from the terminal of the forwarder, an instant message indicating such a fact from the communication device to the terminal of the forwarder.

Claim 16 (Original): The communication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the instant message from the terminal of the forwarder to the terminal of the forwarding destination without intervening the communication device when the user of the forwarding destination is logged in the instant message server.

Claim 17 (Original): The communication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

detecting whether or not the user of the forwarding destination is logged into the instant message server by inquiring the instant message server.

Claim 18 (Original): The communication method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

receiving a first instant message including a transmission destination, a transmitter, a forwarding destination and main text from the terminal of the forwarder.

Claim 19 (Original): The communication method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

generating a second instant message including a transmission destination, a transmitter, a forwarder and main text as an instant message to be transmitted to the terminal of the forwarding destination in accordance with the first instant message.